

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CANCELLED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A message processing apparatus connected to a plurality of terminal apparatuses via a network, comprising:

a preparation unit preparing a receiver state list containing names of a plurality of receivers, each receiver having received an interpersonal message relating to a business activity, the receiver state list also containing individual states of each of the respective receivers, each individual state being mutually associated with the name of a corresponding receiver, where each individual state of each receiver indicates a status of that receiver's activity regarding the business activity, and where the indicating is based on responses received from the receivers in response to the interpersonal message; and

a message management unit enabling display of, in a mutually associated manner, the interpersonal message relating to the business activity and the receiver state list, where the display is enabled on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to a sender and the plurality of the receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activity, wherein

the sender comprises a manager managing the business activity, the receivers comprise respective staff, the interpersonal message is a message inquiring about progress of the staff concerning the business activity, and the manager receives the response messages from the staff, where the responses include completion information indicating whether the business activity has been completed, and wherein

the preparation unit prepares the receiver state list containing, in the mutually associated manner, the names of the plurality of receivers and the states of each of the respective receivers to indicate, based on completion information in the responses, whether the business activity has been completed, and wherein

the preparation unit prepares information representing a ratio of receivers having completed the business activity based on the completion information, which indicates respective completion states of the business activity of the receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activity, and prepares a message list containing, in a mutually associated manner, the information presenting the ratio of the receivers having completed the business activity and also containing a title of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities; and

the message management unit enables display of the message list and the receiver state list in the mutually associated manner on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to the sender and the plurality of receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activity.

4-9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CANCELLED)

11-14. (CANCELLED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A message processing apparatus connected to a plurality of terminal apparatuses via a network, comprising:

a preparation unit preparing a receiver state list containing names of a plurality of receivers, each receiver having received an interpersonal message relating to a business activity, the receiver state list also containing individual states of each of the respective receivers, each individual state being mutually associated with the name of a corresponding receiver, where each individual state of each receiver indicates a status of that receiver's activity regarding the business activity, and where the indicating is based on responses received from the receivers in response to the interpersonal message;

a message management unit enabling display of, in a mutually associated manner, the interpersonal message relating to the business activity and the receiver state list, where the display is enabled on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to a sender and the plurality of the receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activity;

a detection unit automatically detecting designated keywords from comments submitted by a receiver of the interpersonal message in response to the interpersonal message; and

a counter unit counting a number of comments which include the keywords detected by the detection unit, wherein

the message management unit causes the number of comments including the designated keywords to be displayed on a terminal.

16-21. (CANCELLED)

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A message management method for use by a server apparatus connected via a network to a plurality of terminal apparatuses, comprising:

preparing a receiver state list containing names of a plurality of receivers each having received an interpersonal message addressed to the receivers, where the interpersonal message relates to a business activity, where each name is mutually associated with a state of its respective receiver, and where each such state is based on a response to the interpersonal message from the state's receiver;

enabling display of the interpersonal message in association with the receiver state list, where the displaying is enabled on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to a sender of and the terminal apparatuses of the plurality of receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities;

preparing information presenting the ratio of the receivers having completed the assigned business activities based on the completion information indicating the completion states of the business activities respectively assigned to the plurality of receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities, and preparing a message list containing, in a mutually associated manner, the information presenting the ratio of the receivers having completed the assigned business activities and a title of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities; and

enabling display of the message list in mutual association with the receiver state list, where the display is enabled on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to the sender and the plurality of receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities.

23-25. (CANCELLED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable storage medium storing a program, the program comprising:

preparing a receiver state list containing names of a plurality of receivers, each receiver having received an interpersonal message relating to a business activity, the receiver state list also containing individual states of each of the respective receivers, each individual state being mutually associated with the name of a corresponding receiver, where each individual state of each receiver indicates a status of that receiver's activity regarding the business activity, and where the indicating is based on responses received from the receivers in response to the interpersonal message;

enabling display of, in a mutually associated manner, the interpersonal message relating to the business activity and the receiver state list, where the display is enabled on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to a sender and the plurality of the receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activity;

preparing information presenting the ratio of the receivers having completed the assigned business activities based on the completion information indicating the completion states of the business activities respectively assigned to the plurality of receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities, and preparing a message list containing, in a mutually associated manner, the information presenting the ratio of the receivers having completed the assigned business activities and a title of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities; and

enabling display of the message list in mutual association with the receiver state list, where the display is enabled on each of the terminal apparatuses belonging to the sender and the plurality of receivers of the interpersonal message relating to the business activities.

27-31. (CANCELLED)